

CARCASS BUTCHERING(2)

continued from Butchering(1)

ENGLAND & WALES
BEST PRACTICE GUIDES

the deer
initiative

Splitting the aitch bone

- ◆ Using a knife, make one long cut exactly in the centre of the two haunches onto the pelvic bone, exerting some pressure on the knife. In a young animal the aitch bones can be divided through the cartilage. On older animals a saw will be needed to part the two haunches (fig.1). Make sure that if a saw is used all bone dust is removed from both surfaces.

Breakdown of saddle & haunches

The following processes are carried out on the cutting table for ease of operation.

fig.2 flank
removal

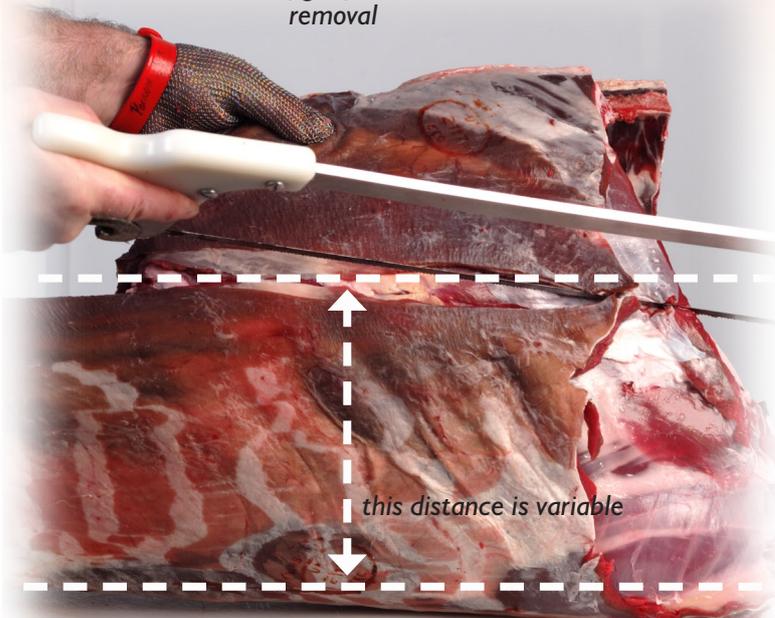


fig. 1 dividing
the haunches



Flank removal

- ◆ Make a cut along the ribs, parallel to the backbone. The distance of the cut from the backbone will determine the length of the ribs according to requirements and the size of the carcass. Leave the ribs long if the loins are to be rolled into joints at a later stage, or cut shorter for steaks. Repeat the process on the other side.(fig.2).

Kidney and suet fat removal

- ◆ The kidneys and fat surrounding them is removed carefully by easing away the suet from the abdominal cavity, take extreme care not to cut into any underlying muscles when carrying out this operation.

Tenderloin (fillet) removal

- ◆ To enable the carcass to be broken down into haunches and a saddle the tenderloins are removed completely first.
- ◆ Cut around the head of the tenderloin and cut away from the pelvic bone.
- ◆ To remove the tenderloins follow the vertebrae on each side of the carcass to remove completely intact (fig.3). The lumbar vertebrae have 'T' bones that are exposed when the tenderloins are removed.

Striploin removal

- ◆ As an alternative to leaving the saddle on the

bone, the strip loin meat can be removed in one piece, if this is done before the forequarters are removed the strip will be longer. Use the sheet boning method to remove the striploins from each side of the vertebrae. Care must be taken to ensure that the knife is always pressed onto the bone. (fig.4).

Haunch removal

- ◆ Situated on top of the pelvic cavity the point where the sacrum (tail) is connected to the aitch bone is a fused joint. This can be opened by inserting a boning knife at the angle demonstrated (fig.5). Follow the division towards the tail area and the haunch falls away.
- ◆ Cut around the end of the aitch bone as shown (fig.6 & 7). The process is then repeated on the other side to remove the opposite haunch.

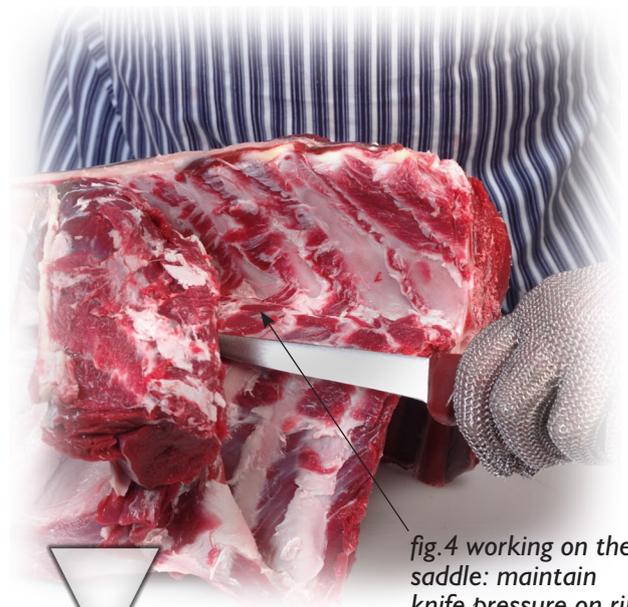


fig.4 working on the saddle: maintain knife pressure on ribs

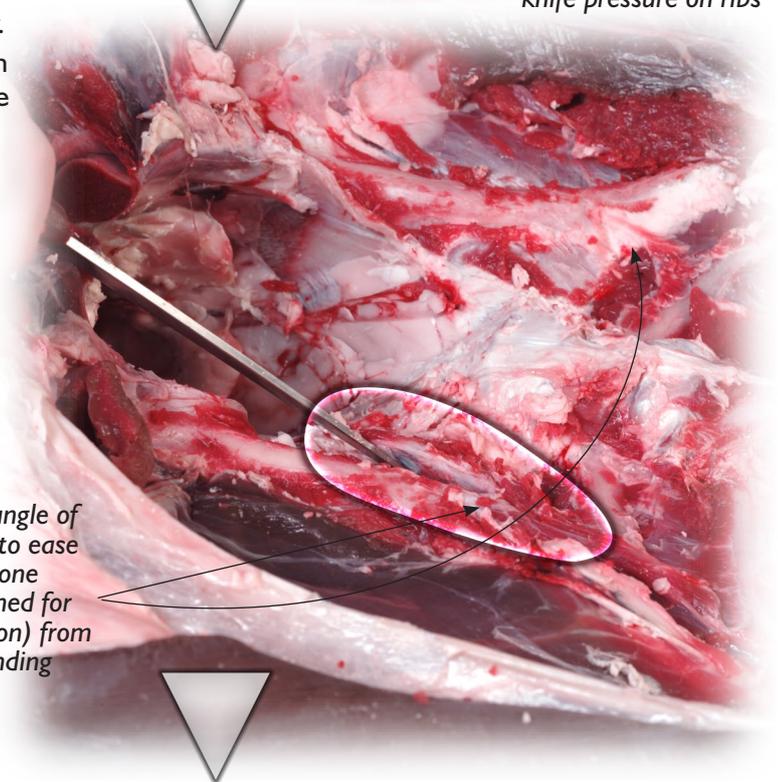


fig.5 note angle of knife used to ease the aitch bone (here outlined for identification) from the surrounding sacrum

continued in Butchering(3)

(fig.6 & 7) following the division of the haunch and aitch bone towards the tail area and the haunch will fall away (far right)

